

Applicant: Michael Odell  
Application No.: 10/054,349  
Art Unit: 1731

### Claim Listing

1. (currently amended) A twin-wire former in a paper machine including two forming wire loops, which define between themselves a twin-wire zone, and at least one dewatering box, which said at least one dewatering box is located inside one of the wire loops to remove water through said wire from a web being formed, and at least one loading blade, which is located opposite to the dewatering box inside the other wire loop in contact with the other wire, which dewatering box includes at least three successive dewatering zones, wherein vacuum zones alternate with vacuum-free zones ~~every second zone of the dewatering box has a vacuum and every second zone is vacuum-free~~, and the loading blade or blades is/are placed inside one of the wire loops at a location where it or them is/are opposed by one of the vacuum-free zone(s) a vacuum-free zone, which is preceded and followed by one of the vacuum zone(s) a vacuum zone.
2. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 1 wherein vacuums of different magnitude are arranged in at least two vacuum zones of the dewatering box.
3. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 2 wherein the magnitude of the vacuum of one of the least two vacuum zones of the dewatering box which is greater than the magnitude of another vacuum zone which precedes it in the running direction of the web.
4. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 1 wherein on the surface of the dewatering box in contact with the wire there are dewatering blades which are disposed in such a way that the running of the wires over the dewatering box is along a linear path.
5. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 1 wherein on the surface of the dewatering box in contact with the wire there are dewatering blades which are disposed in such a way that the running of the wires over the dewatering box is along a curved path.

Applicant: Michael Odell  
Application No.: 10/054,349  
Art Unit: 1731

6. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 1 wherein in the running direction of the web before the dewatering box there is a pre-loading blade located inside the wire loop opposite to the dewatering box.

7. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 1 wherein at the beginning of the dewatering box there is a vacuum-free zone which is opposed by a pre-loading blade located on the side of the second wire loop.

8. (original) A twin-wire former in a paper machine, the former comprising:  
a first forming wire loop;  
a second forming wire loop, wherein portions of the first forming wire loop and the second forming wire loop extend adjacent one another to define a twin-wire zone;  
at least one dewatering box located inside the first forming wire loop, to remove water through the first forming wire loop from a web being formed, the at least one dewatering box having a first zone, a second zone downstream of the first zone, and a third zone downstream of the second zone, the first zone and the third zone having vacuum applied thereto, and the second zone having no vacuum applied thereto;  
and  
at least one loading blade, which is located opposite to the at least one dewatering box inside the second wire loop, the at least one loading blade being in contact with the second wire loop at a location opposed by the second zone, such that the at least one loading blade is positioned such that it is preceded and followed by zones of the at least one dewatering box having vacuum applied thereto.

9. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 8 wherein the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the first zone is different than the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the third zone.

Applicant: Michael Odell  
Application No.: 10/054,349  
Art Unit: 1731

10. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 9 wherein the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the third zone is greater than the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the first zone.

11. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 8 further comprising a plurality of dewatering blades disposed on a surface of the at least one dewatering box in contact with the first wire loop such that the running of the first wire loop and the second wire loop over the dewatering box is along a linear path.

12. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 8 further comprising a plurality of dewatering blades disposed on a surface of the at least one dewatering box in contact with the first wire loop such that the running of the first wire loop and the second wire loop over the dewatering box is along a curved path.

13. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 8 further comprising a pre-loading blade located inside the second wire loop upstream of the at least one dewatering box.

14. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 8 wherein at the beginning of the at least one dewatering box there is a vacuum-free zone which is opposed by a pre-loading blade located on the side of the second wire loop.

Applicant: Michael Odell  
Application No.: 10/054,349  
Art Unit: 1731

15. (currently amended) A twin-wire former in a paper machine, the former comprising:
- a first forming wire loop;
  - a second forming wire loop, wherein portions of the first forming wire loop and the second forming wire loop extend adjacent one another to define a twin-wire zone;
  - at least one dewatering box located inside the first forming wire loop, to remove water through the first forming wire loop from a web being formed, the at least one dewatering box having at least three successive zones arranged in the twin-wire zone, wherein the zones alternate between being a vacuum zone and being a vacuum-free zone; and
  - at least one loading blade, which is located opposite to the at least one dewatering box inside the second wire loop, the at least one loading blade being in contact with the second wire loop at a location opposed by one of the ~~vacuum~~ vacuum-free zones, such that the at least one loading blade is positioned such that it is preceded and followed by zones of the at least one dewatering box having vacuum applied thereto.
16. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of dewatering blades disposed on a surface of the at least one dewatering box in contact with the first wire loop such that the running of the first wire loop and the second wire loop over the dewatering box is along a linear path.
17. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of dewatering blades disposed on a surface of the at least one dewatering box in contact with the first wire loop such that the running of the first wire loop and the second wire loop over the dewatering box is along a curved path.

Applicant: Michael Odell  
Application No.: 10/054,349  
Art Unit: 1731

18. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 15 further comprising a pre-loading blade located inside the second wire loop upstream of the at least one dewatering box.
19. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 15 wherein at the beginning of the at least one dewatering box there is a vacuum-free zone which is opposed by a pre-loading blade located on the side of the second wire loop.
20. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 15 wherein the at least three successive zones of the at least one dewatering box comprise a first vacuum zone and a second vacuum zone downstream of the first vacuum zone, and wherein the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the first vacuum zone is different than the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the second vacuum zone.
21. (original) The twin-wire former of claim 20 wherein the magnitude of the vacuum applied to first vacuum zone is less than the magnitude of the vacuum applied to the second vacuum zone.